

7m



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
 United States Patent and Trademark Office
 Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
 www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/575,493	05/18/2000	Regis Nicolas	PALM-3025	9702

7590 01/27/2005
 Wagner Murabito & Hao LLP
 Two North Market Street
 Third Floor
 San Jose, CA 95113

EXAMINER

GOOD JOHNSON, MOTILEWA

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2672

DATE MAILED: 01/27/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/575,493

Applicant(s)

NICOLAS ET AL.

Examiner

Motilewa A. Good-Johnson

Art Unit

2672

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 August 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-46 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-46 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to the following communications: Application, filed on 05/18/2000; Amendment A, filed 09/29/2003; Amendment B, filed 04/13/2003; Amendment, filed 08/24/2004.

This action is made final.

2. Claims 1-46 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 10, 21 and 36 are independent claims.

3. The present title of this application is "Electronic System Having Multiple Display Modes for Reorienting the Display of Data on a Display Screen" (as originally filed).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-18, 20-23 and 29-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Martinez et al., U.S. Patent Number 6,137,468, "Method and Apparatus for Altering a Display in Response to Changes in Attitude Relative to a Plane", class 345/672, 10/24/2000, filed on 10/15/1996, Buxton et al., U.S. Patent Number 6,115,025, "System for Maintaining Orientation of a User Interface as a Display

Art Unit: 2672

Changes Orientation", class 345/659, 09/05/2000, filed 09/30/1997, and Armitage, U.S. Patent Number 6,282,082.

Regarding claim 1, Martinez discloses an electronic system capable of being rotated with respect to a line of sight of a user and further having a first display mode a second display mode, and a third display mode, said electronic system comprising: a processor coupled to a bus; (microprocessor 202 connected to system bus 200, col. 3, lines 40-41); a memory device coupled to said bus; (RAM, ROM, CMOS RAM connected to system bus 200, col. 3, lines 45-55, see also figure 2); and an electronic display device coupled to said bus (figure 2, element 200) wherein said electronic display device is configured for displaying visual data in a display orientation (col. 2, lines 8-12) corresponding to a selected display mode of said electronic system, wherein each display orientation compensates for rotation of said electronic system, (maintaining window objects in response to changes in attitude, col. 4, lines 59-67, which Examiner interprets as display orientation compensation)

However, it is noted that Martinez fails to disclose one or more display mode controls for selectively operating said electronic system in one of said first, said second and said third display modes wherein a first display orientation corresponds to said first display mode, a second display orientation corresponds to said second display mode, and a third display orientation corresponds to said third display mode; and wherein said rotation with respect to said line of sight occurs such that said rotation avoids crossing a plane on which said electronic system rests and furthermore a communication port coupled to said bus, wherein each display mode depends on a position of said

Art Unit: 2672

communication port relative to said line of sight of said user, wherein said position facilitates communication with a second electronic system via said communication port.

Buxton discloses one or more display mode controls for selectively operating said electronic system in one of said first, said second and said third display modes wherein a first display orientation corresponds to said first display mode, a second display orientation corresponds to said second display mode, and a third display orientation corresponds to said third display mode (col. 4, lines 25-47) and wherein said rotation with respect to said line of sight occurs such that said rotation avoids crossing a plane on which said electronic system rests (col. 4, lines 25-55),

Armitage discloses a communication port (col. 5, lines 4-6) coupled to said bus, wherein each display mode depends on a position of said communication port relative to said line of sight of said user (col. 5, lines 7-10), wherein said position facilitates communication with a second electronic system via said communication port (col. 5, lines 14-16)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include in the invention of Martinez disclosed bus system, to facilitate display mode controls based upon rotation on a fixed plane as disclosed in Buxton, to allow a user to rotate about in a fixed plane such as a piece of paper is passed on a table and provides the user provides the correct view orientation of the display. Furthermore, it would have been obvious to include in the invention of Martinez and Buxton the communication port, as disclosed in Armitage to provide access to a communications network because

Art Unit: 2672

communications access is a system feature, which provides extensibility for businesses and users.

Regarding claim 2, Martinez discloses electronic display device display visual data in said first display orientation . . . located in front of said user . . . second display orientation . . . right of said user . . . third display orientation . . . left of said user. (figures 5A-5C, see also col. 4, lines 50-58)

Regarding claim 3, Martinez discloses second display orientation is offset positive 90 degrees relative to said first display orientation. (laptop rotated 90 degrees, col. 4, lines 55-56)

Regarding claim 4, Martinez discloses third display orientation is offset negative 90 degrees relative to said first display orientation. (laptop rotated negative 90 degrees, col. 4, lines 35-37)

Regarding claim 5, Armitage discloses handwriting recognition, col. 8, lines 19-20.

Regarding claim 6, Armitage discloses a sleep mode (col. 5, lines 38-47)

Regarding claim 7, Armitage discloses one or more display mode controls are one or more buttons. (col. 5, line 38)

Regarding claim 8, Armitage discloses communication port is an infrared communication port. (col. 5, lines 4-5)

Regarding claims 9 and 35, Armitage discloses electronic system as a modular tablet computer, col. 3, line 65 – col. 4, line 18, which Examiner interprets as a palmtop computer system.

Regarding claims 10 and 21 they are rejected based upon similar rational as above claim 1.

Regarding claim 11, it is rejected based upon similar ration as above claim 2.

Regarding claims 36 and 37, they are rejected based upon similar rational as above claim 1.

Regarding claim 12, Armitage discloses communicating with said second electronic system via said communication port. (col. 7, lines 3-15)

Regarding claim 13, Martinez discloses second display orientation is offset positive 90 degrees relative to said first display orientation. (laptop rotated 90 degrees, col. 4, lines 55-56)

Regarding claim 14, Martinez discloses third display orientation is offset negative 90 degrees relative to said first display orientation. (laptop rotated negative 90 degrees, col. 4, lines 35-37)

Regarding claims 15-18 and 20, they are rejected based upon similar rational as above claims 5-6, 8, 7 and 9 respectively.

Regarding claims 22, 23, 29-34, they are rejected based upon similar rational as claims 7, 7-8, 5, 6, 12, 14, 2 and 9 respectively.

Regarding dependent claim 26, Armitage discloses processor communicates with said second electronic system via said communication port. (col. 7, lines 3-15)

Regarding claims 39 and 42-46, they are rejected based upon similar rational as claims 8, 5, 6, 7, 7 and 9 respectively.

Regarding claims 38, 40, and 41 they are rejected based upon similar rational as above claims 2-4 respectively.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 19 and 24-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Martinez, Buxton and Armitage as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Kang et al., U.S. Patent Number 5,949,408, "Dual Orientation Display Handheld Computer Devices", class 345/169, 09/07/1999, filed on 02/13/1997.

Regarding claim 19, (display orientation selector is a graphical menu element displayed on said electronic display device)

Martinez, Buxton and Armitage both fail to disclose a graphical menu element.

Kang discloses in figures 3 and 4 a graphical menu to perform user request such as a portrait or landscape display in a palmtop computer, col. 5, lines 1-33.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include the graphical menu of Kang in the display device of Martinez, the horizontal rotation orientation as disclosed in Buxton, with the communication port disclosed in Armitage, because in electronic display device systems a graphical menu is

Art Unit: 2672

displayed to control the windows, and because Martinez discloses user input, to further allow for user-friendly display rotate commands in a business network environment.

Regarding claim 24, 27 and 28, Martinez, Buxton and Armitage all fail to disclose display orientation based on a display modes selection, selector is a graphical button displayed on electronic display device, a graphical menu user selector.

Kang discloses display orientation having display mode selection with a graphical button and a menu user selector (col. 5, lines 1-50)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include the graphical menu of Kang in the display device of Martinez, the horizontal rotation orientation as disclosed in Buxton, with the communication port disclosed in Armitage, because in electronic display device systems a graphical menu is displayed to control the windows, and because Martinez discloses user input, to further allow for user-friendly display rotate commands in a business network environment.

Regarding claim 25, Armitage discloses transmitting the display mode configuration to a second system and configuring said second system. (col. 7, lines 3-15)

Conclusion

8. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Art Unit: 2672

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Response to Arguments

9. Applicant's arguments see Amendment, filed 08/24/2004, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1-46 under 103 have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Martinez, Buxton and Armitage.

Applicant argues that Martinez fails to disclose an electronic system rotated with respect to the user such that the rotation avoids crossing a plane on which the system rests. Examiner agrees and therefore withdraws the rejection in view of Martinez and Armitage. Examiner introduces the newly cited reference, Buxton et al., as disclosing a display orientation changing based upon a reference plane, such as on a table, in which the rotation avoids crossing a plane on which the system rests.

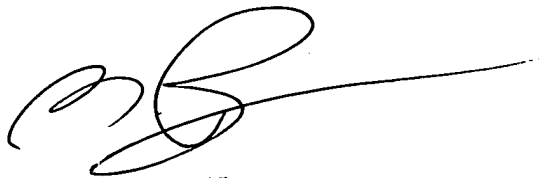
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Motilewa A. Good-Johnson whose telephone number is (703) 305-3939. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday 9:00 AM - 6:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mike Razavi can be reached on (703) 305-4713. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Motilewa A. Good-Johnson
Examiner
Art Unit 2672

mgj



MICHAEL RAZAVI
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600

REMARKS

Claims 1-46 were previously pending in this patent application. Claims 1-46 stand rejected. Herein, Claims 1, 10, 21, and 36 have been amended. Accordingly, after this Amendment and Response, Claims 1-46 remain pending in this patent application. Further examination and reconsideration in view of the claim amendments and arguments set forth below is respectfully requested.

110, 21, 36

35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) Rejections

Claims 1-18, 20-23, and 29-46 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable Martinez et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,137,468 (hereafter Martinez), in view of Armitage et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,282,082 (hereafter Armitage). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

6115 025

Independent Claim 1 recites:

An electronic system **capable of being rotated with respect to a line of sight of a user** and further having a first display mode, a second display mode, and a third display mode, said electronic system comprising:

- a processor coupled to a bus;
- a memory device coupled to said bus;
- a communication port coupled to said bus, wherein each display mode depends on a position of said communication port relative to said line of sight of said user, wherein said position facilitates communication with a second electronic system via said communication port;

- one or more display mode controls for selectively operating said electronic system in one of said first, said second, and said third display modes, wherein a first display orientation corresponds to said

first display mode, a second display orientation corresponds to said second display mode, and a third display orientation corresponds to said third display mode; and

an electronic display device coupled to said bus, wherein said electronic display device is configured for displaying visual data in a display orientation corresponding to a selected display mode of said electronic system, wherein each display orientation compensates for rotation of said electronic system, ***and wherein said rotation with respect to said line of sight occurs such that said rotation avoids crossing a plane on which said electronic system rests.*** (emphasis added)

It is respectfully asserted that Martinez and Armitage do not disclose the present invention as recited in Independent Claim 1. In particular, Martinez is directed to a computer system (e.g., laptop computer 300) having a display device. [Martinez; Figure 3; Col. 4, lines 17-26]. The orientation of the laptop system 300 is determined relative to plane 302 having an X axis and a Y axis. Id. In particular, the laptop system 300 rests on plane 302. Rotating laptop 300 around the Y axis along arrow 304 results in a change in orientation in the X value and crosses the plane 302 while rotating laptop 300 around the X axis along arrow 306 results in a change in orientation also referred as "attitude" along the Y value and crosses the plane 302. Id. Changes in "attitude" are rotations that cross the plane 302. Id. Additionally, while Figures 4A, 5A, and 6A depict the laptop 300 resting on a plane (e.g., plane 302), Figures 4B-4D, 5B-5C, and 6B-6C show the laptop 300 at different positions, wherein each position is set by rotating the laptop 300 such that the plane on which the laptop 300 initially rests is crossed (e.g., plane 302). For example, Figure 5A shows the laptop 300

in landscape mode, resting on a plane (e.g., plane 302) while Figures 5B-5C show the laptop 300 in portrait mode after being rotated such that the plane (e.g., plane 302) on which the laptop 300 rests is crossed. Movement between landscape mode and portrait mode requires crossing the plane (e.g., plane 302) on which the laptop 300 rests.

Returning to Figure 3, the laptop 300 rests on plane 302. If the Z axis is assumed to extend perpendicular to the plane 302, rotating laptop 300 around the Z axis does not result in a change in orientation in the X value or in the Y value. Moreover, this rotation around the Z axis does not cross the plane 302. However, Martinez clearly focuses on changing the display orientation ONLY when a change in the X value or the Y value is sensed. [Martinez; Col. 5, lines 24-39]. Since rotation around the Z axis does not result in change in the X value or in the Y value, no change in display orientation will occur in Martinez.

Additionally, Martinez is directed to adjusting visual components on a display device so that the components are level regardless of the position of the display device. [Martinez; Figures 4B-4D, 5B-5C, and 6B-6C; Col. 4, lines 41-43]. That is, when the laptop 300 is tilted by crossing the plane on which the laptop 300 rests (e.g., plane 302), the visual components of the display device are adjusted to compensate for the tilting. Furthermore, Martinez discloses a tilt determination block 700 at Figure 7. Also, at Figure 8, Martinez depicts a

method showing tilt Blocks (e.g., 804, 808, and 812). Continuing, at Figure 9, Martinez depicts a method showing tilt Blocks (e.g., 904, 908, and 912). Finally, at Figure 10, Martinez depicts a method showing tilt Blocks (e.g., 1004, 1006, 1012, and 1018).

Martinez does not disclose an electronic system rotated with respect to the line of sight of the user such that the rotation avoids crossing a plane on which the electronic system rests, wherein its display device displays visual data according to a display orientation that compensates for rotation of the electronic system.

Furthermore, Armitage is directed to a tablet computer system. [Armitage; Col. 2, lines 47-58]. However, Armitage does not disclose an electronic system rotated with respect to the line of sight of the user such that the rotation avoids crossing a plane on which the electronic system rests. Further, Armitage fails to show a display device that displays visual data according to a display orientation that compensates for rotation of the electronic system.

Unlike Martinez and Armitage, Independent Claim 1 is directed to an electronic system capable of being rotated with respect to a line of sight of a user. The electronic system has a display device configured for displaying visual data in a display orientation corresponding to a selected display mode. Each

display orientation compensates for rotation of the electronic system. Moreover, rotation of the electronic system with respect to the line of sight occurs such that the rotation avoids crossing a plane on which the electronic system rests. While Martinez is directed to a laptop tilted to cross a plane on which the laptop rests and is directed to adjustment of its display device based on the tilting,

Independent Claim 1 is directed to an electronic system rotated with respect to the line of sight of the user such that the rotation avoids crossing a plane on which the electronic system rests, wherein its display device displays visual data according to a display orientation that compensates for rotation of the electronic system. Also, Armitage does not disclose an electronic system rotated with respect to the line of sight of the user such that the rotation avoids crossing a plane on which the electronic system rests. Continuing, Armitage fails to show a display device that displays visual data according to a display orientation that compensates for rotation of the electronic system. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Independent Claim 1 is patentable over Martinez and Armitage and is in condition for allowance.

Dependent Claims 2-9 are dependent on allowable Independent Claim 1, which is allowable over Martinez and Armitage. Hence, it is respectfully submitted that Dependent Claims 2-9 are patentable over Martinez and Armitage for the reasons discussed above.

With respect to Independent Claims 10, 21, and 36, it is respectfully submitted that Independent Claims 10, 21, and 36 recites similar limitations as in Independent Claim 1. In particular, the electronic system of Independent Claims 10, 21, and 36 is rotated with respect to the line of sight of the user such that the rotation avoids crossing a plane on which the electronic system rests, wherein its display device displays visual data according to a display orientation that compensates for rotation of the electronic system. Therefore, Independent Claims 10, 21, and 36 are allowable over Martinez and Armitage for reasons discussed in connection with Independent Claim 1.

Dependent Claims 11-18, 20, 22-23, 29-35, and 37-46 are dependent on allowable Independent Claims 10, 21, and 36, which are allowable over Martinez and Armitage. Hence, it is respectfully submitted that Dependent Claims 11-18, 20, 22-23, 29-35, and 37-46 are patentable over Martinez and Armitage for the reasons discussed above.

Claims 19 and 24-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Martinez et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,137,468 (hereafter Martinez), in view of Armitage et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,282,082 (hereafter Armitage), and further in view of Kang et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,949,408 (hereafter Kang). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Dependent Claims 19 and 24-28 are dependent on allowable Independent Claims 10 and 21, which are allowable over Martinez and Armitage. Moreover, Kang does not disclose an electronic system that is rotated with respect to the line of sight of the user such that the rotation avoids crossing a plane on which the electronic system rests, wherein its display device displays visual data according to a display orientation that compensates for rotation of the electronic system. On the contrary, Kang shows a handheld computer device in Figure 1 in landscape mode and resting on a plane while in Figure 2 the handheld computer device is in portrait mode. Movement between landscape mode and portrait mode requires crossing the plane on which the handheld computer rests. Hence, it is respectfully submitted that Dependent Claims 19 and 24-28 are patentable over Martinez, Armitage, and Kang for the reasons discussed above.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that the above amendments and remarks overcome all rejections. For at least the above-presented reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all remaining claims (Claims 1-46) are now in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is urged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present Application.

Please charge any additional fees or apply any credits to our PTO deposit account number: 23-0085.

Respectfully submitted,

WAGNER, MURABITO & HAO, LLP

Dated: _____

8/17/2004

Jose S. Garcia

Jose S. Garcia
Registration No. 43,628

Two North Market Street, Third Floor
San Jose, CA 95113
(408) 938-9060

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An electronic system capable of being rotated with respect to a line of sight of a user and further having a first display mode, a second display mode, and a third display mode, said electronic system comprising:

a processor coupled to a bus;

a memory device coupled to said bus;

a communication port coupled to said bus, wherein each display mode depends on a position of said communication port relative to said line of sight of said user, wherein said position facilitates communication with a second electronic system via said communication port;

one or more display mode controls for selectively operating said electronic system in one of said first, said second, and said third display modes, wherein a first display orientation corresponds to said first display mode, a second display orientation corresponds to said second display mode, and a third display orientation corresponds to said third display mode; and

an electronic display device coupled to said bus, wherein said electronic display device is configured for displaying visual data in a display orientation

corresponding to a selected display mode of said electronic system, wherein each display orientation compensates for rotation of said electronic system, and wherein said rotation with respect to said line of sight occurs such that said rotation avoids crossing a fixed plane on which said electronic system rests.

2. (Original) An electronic system as recited in Claim 1 wherein said electronic display device displays said visual data in said first display orientation when said second electronic system is located in front of said user, wherein said electronic display device displays said visual data in said second display orientation when said second electronic system is located to the right of said user, wherein said electronic display device displays said visual data in said third display orientation when said second electronic system is located to the left of said user.

3. (Original) An electronic system as recited in Claim 1 wherein said second display orientation is offset positive 90 degrees relative to said first display orientation.

4. (Original) An electronic system as recited in Claim 1 wherein said third display orientation is offset negative 90 degrees relative to said first display orientation.

5. (Original) An electronic system as recited in Claim 1 further comprising a handwriting recognition device, wherein said handwriting recognition device is configured to receive user input handwriting stroke data oriented according to said selected display mode of said electronic system.

6. (Original) An electronic system as recited in Claim 1 wherein one of said first, said second, and said third display modes is a default display mode.

7. (Original) An electronic system as recited in Claim 1 wherein said one or more display mode controls are one or more buttons.

8. (Original) An electronic system as recited in Claim 1 wherein said communication port is an infrared communication port.

9. (Original) An electronic system as recited in Claim 1 wherein said electronic system is a palmtop computer system.

10. (Currently Amended) An electronic system capable of being rotated with respect to a line of sight of a user and further having a first display mode, a second display mode, and a third display mode, said electronic system comprising:

a processor coupled to a bus;

a communication port coupled to said bus, wherein each display mode depends on a position of said communication port relative to said line of sight of said user, wherein said position facilitates communication with a second electronic system via said communication port;

an electronic display device coupled to said bus, wherein a first display orientation corresponds to said first display mode, a second display orientation corresponds to said second display mode, and a third display orientation corresponds to said third display mode, wherein said electronic display device displays visual data in a display orientation corresponding to a selected display mode of said electronic system, wherein each display orientation compensates for rotation of said electronic system, and wherein said rotation with respect to said line of sight occurs such that said rotation avoids crossing a ~~fixed~~ plane on which said electronic system rests; and

a memory device coupled to said bus and having computer-executable instructions therein for causing said processor to selectively operate said electronic system in one of said first, said second, and said third display modes, wherein said processor displays a display re-orientation selector for enabling said user to select one of said first, said second, and said third display modes, wherein said processor receives a display mode selection from said user, and wherein said processor adjusts a particular display orientation of said electronic display device based on said display mode selection.

11. (Original) An electronic system as recited in Claim 10 wherein said electronic display device displays said visual data in said first display orientation when said second electronic system is located in front of said user, wherein said electronic display device displays said visual data in said second display orientation when said second electronic system is located to the right of said user, wherein said electronic display device displays said visual data in said third display orientation when said second electronic system is located to the left of said user.

12. (Previously Presented) An electronic system as recited in Claim 10 wherein said processor communicates with said second electronic system via said communication port.

13. (Original) An electronic system as recited in Claim 12 wherein said second display orientation is offset positive 90 degrees relative to said first display orientation.

14. (Original) An electronic system as recited in Claim 12 wherein said third display orientation is offset negative 90 degrees relative to said first display orientation.

15. (Original) An electronic system as recited in Claim 10 further comprising a handwriting recognition device, wherein said handwriting recognition device is configured to receive user input handwriting stroke data oriented according to said selected display mode of said electronic system.

16. (Original) An electronic system as recited in Claim 10 wherein one of said plurality of display modes is a default display mode.

17. (Original) An electronic system as recited in Claim 10 wherein said communication port is an infrared communication port.

18. (Original) An electronic system as recited in Claim 10 wherein said display re-orientation selector is a graphical button displayed on said electronic display device.

19. (Original) An electronic system as recited in Claim 10 wherein said display re-orientation selector is a graphical menu element displayed on said electronic display device.

20. (Original) An electronic system as recited in Claim 10 wherein said electronic system is a palmtop computer system.

21. (Currently Amended) A portable electronic system capable of being rotated with respect to a line of sight of a user and further having a plurality of display modes, said portable electronic system comprising:

a processor coupled to a bus;

a memory device coupled to said bus;

a communication port coupled to said bus, wherein each display mode corresponds to a display orientation of a plurality of display orientations; and

an electronic display device coupled to said bus for displaying visual data according to a selected display orientation corresponding to a selected display mode of said portable electronic system, wherein each display mode depends on a position of said communication port relative to said line of sight of said user, wherein said position facilitates communication with a second electronic system via said communication port, wherein each selected display orientation compensates for rotation of said portable electronic system, and wherein said rotation with respect to said line of sight occurs such that said rotation avoids crossing a fixed plane on which said portable electronic system rests.

22. (Original) A portable electronic system as recited in Claim 21 further comprising one or more display mode controls for selectively operating said portable electronic system in one of said plurality of display modes.

23. (Original) A portable electronic system as recited in Claim 22 wherein said one or more display mode controls are one or more buttons.

24. (Previously Presented) A portable electronic system as recited in Claim 21 wherein said memory device includes computer-executable instructions therein for causing said processor to selectively operate said portable electronic system in one of said plurality of display modes, wherein said processor displays a display re-orientation selector for enabling a user to select one of said plurality of display modes, wherein said processor receives a display mode selection from said user, and wherein said processor adjusts a particular display orientation of said electronic display device based on said display mode selection.

25. (Previously Presented) A portable electronic system as recited in Claim 24 wherein said processor transmits via said communication port display mode configuration instructions to said second electronic system, and wherein said second electronic system is automatically configured based on said display mode configuration instructions.

26. (Previously Presented) A portable electronic system as recited in Claim 24 wherein said processor communicates with said second electronic system via said communication port.

27. (Original) A portable electronic system as recited in Claim 24 wherein said display re-orientation selector is a graphical button displayed on said electronic display device.

28. (Original) A portable electronic system as recited in Claim 24 wherein said display re-orientation selector is a graphical menu element displayed on said electronic display device.

29. (Original) A portable electronic system as recited in Claim 21 wherein said communication port is an infrared communication port.

30. (Original) A portable electronic system as recited in Claim 21 further comprising a handwriting recognition device, wherein said handwriting recognition device is configured to receive user input handwriting stroke data oriented according to a selected display mode of said portable electronic system.

31. (Original) A portable electronic system as recited in Claim 21 wherein one of said plurality of display modes is a default display mode, wherein a default display orientation corresponds to said default display mode.

32. (Original) A portable electronic system as recited in Claim 31 wherein one of said plurality of display orientations is offset positive 90 degrees relative to said default display orientation.

33. (Original) A portable electronic system as recited in Claim 31 wherein one of said plurality of display orientations is offset negative 90 degrees relative to said default display orientation.

34. (Original) A portable electronic system as recited in Claim 21 wherein said electronic display device displays said visual data in a first orientation of said plurality of display orientations when said second electronic system is located in front of said user, wherein said electronic display device displays said visual data in a second display orientation of said plurality of display orientations when said second electronic system is located to the right of said user, wherein said electronic display device displays said visual data in a third display orientation of said plurality of display orientations when said second electronic system is located to the left of said user.

35. (Original) A portable electronic system as recited in Claim 21 wherein said portable electronic system is a palmtop computer system.

36. (Currently Amended) An electronic system capable of being rotated with respect to a line of sight of a user and further having a first display mode, a second display mode, and a third display mode, said electronic system comprising:

a processor coupled to a bus;

a memory device coupled to said bus;

one or more display mode controls for selectively operating said electronic system in one of said first, said second, and said third display modes, wherein a first display orientation corresponds to said first display mode, a second display orientation corresponds to said second display mode, and a third display orientation corresponds to said third display mode; and

an electronic display device coupled to said bus, wherein said electronic display device is configured for displaying visual data in a display orientation corresponding to a selected display mode of said electronic system to facilitate interaction by said user with a second electronic system, wherein each display orientation compensates for rotation of said electronic system, and wherein said rotation with respect to said line of sight occurs such that said rotation avoids crossing a ~~fixed~~ plane on which said electronic system rests.

37. (Previously Presented) An electronic system as recited in Claim 36 further comprising a communication port coupled to said bus, wherein each display mode depends on a position of said communication port relative to said

line of sight of said user, wherein said position facilitates communication with said second electronic system via said communication port.

38. (Original) An electronic system as recited in Claim 37 wherein said electronic display device displays said visual data in said first display orientation when said second electronic system is located in front of said user, wherein said electronic display device displays said visual data in said second display orientation when said second electronic system is located to the right of said user, wherein said electronic display device displays said visual data in said third display orientation when said second electronic system is located to the left of said user.

39. (Original) An electronic system as recited in Claim 37 wherein said communication port is an infrared communication port.

40. (Original) An electronic system as recited in Claim 36 wherein said second display orientation is offset positive 90 degrees relative to said first display orientation.

41. (Original) An electronic system as recited in Claim 36 wherein said third display orientation is offset negative 90 degrees relative to said first display orientation.

42. (Original) An electronic system as recited in Claim 36 further comprising a handwriting recognition device, wherein said handwriting recognition device is configured to receive user input handwriting stroke data oriented according to said selected display mode of said electronic system.

43. (Original) An electronic system as recited in Claim 36 wherein one of said first, said second, and said third display modes is a default display mode.

44. (Original) An electronic system as recited in Claim 36 wherein said one or more display mode controls are one or more buttons.

45. (Original) An electronic system as recited in Claim 36 wherein said one or more display mode controls are one or more buttons displayed on said electronic display device.

46. (Original) An electronic system as recited in Claim 36 wherein said electronic system is a palmtop computer system.